

a coating of a heat shrinkable material disposed over said distal tapered portion of said reinforcement tube.

16. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said elongated, flexible core comprises a rod.

17. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said elongated, flexible core comprises at least one strand.

18. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said elongated, flexible core comprises a hypo tube.

19. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said reinforcement tube comprises an elongated ground stainless steel hypo tube.

20. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said reinforcement tube comprises titanium.

21. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said reinforcement tube comprises a nickel titanium alloy.

22. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said reinforcement tube comprises a distal tapered portion.

23. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said coating of a heat shrinkable material comprises an elongated tube of polytetrafluoroethylene.

24. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said primary coil comprises at least one nickel titanium alloy strand.

25. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said primary coil comprises at least one platinum wire.

26. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 24, wherein said primary coil further comprises at least one platinum wire.

27. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said distal tip comprises platinum.

28. (New) The composite guidewire of Claim 15, wherein said distal tip comprises tantalum filled epoxy.